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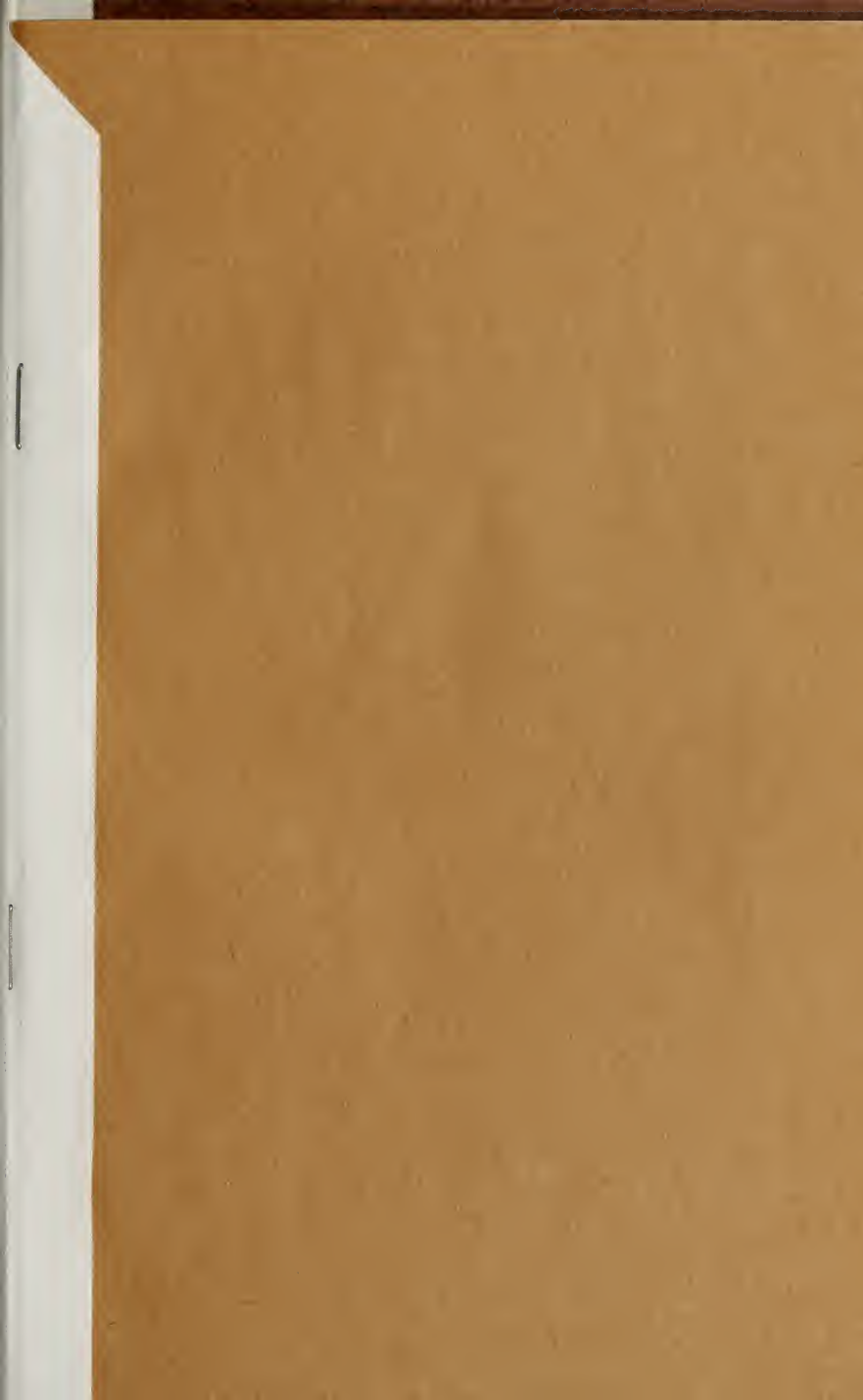
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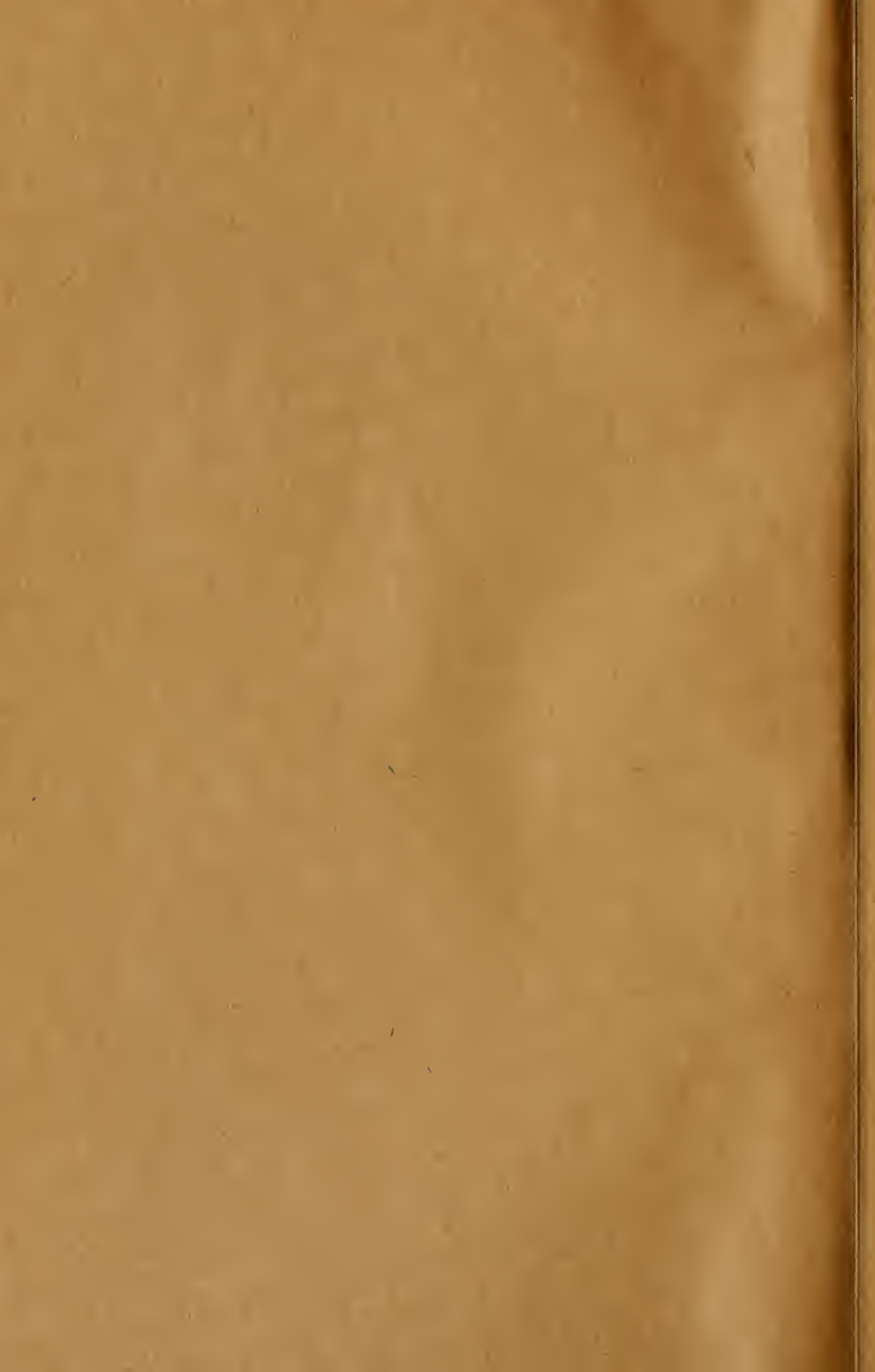
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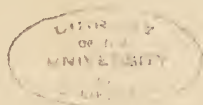




# BOOK-PLATE LITERATURE

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BY WINWARD PRESCOTT





BOOK-PLATE LITERATURE.

One of an edition of 275 copies printed  
for the Author and for The American Book-  
plate Society. Reprinted from "The Biblio."



# BOOK-PLATE LITERATURE

BY  
WINWARD PRESCOTT

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A LIST OF  
BOOK-PLATES

ETCHED OR ENGRAVED

*by*  
*Sidney L. Smith*

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*With a few examples printed from the original coppers*

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BOSTON  
1912

## BOOK-PLATE LITERATURE.

To most book-plate collectors, books about Ex Libris are merely volumes for reference. Their books form "working" libraries almost entirely, being composed of such books as the "Ex Libris Series," Bell, London; Hamilton's "Dated Book-plates," the Franks catalogue and others of the same kind, these being the books which the average collector buys first and uses most often.

But to the collector of book-plate "literature" the working library is only a beginning. Probably only a very small number of the many Ex Libris collectors know what a large field there is in this special line. Some years ago, when I was new to book-plates, I wrote to an older collector asking him to send me a list of all of the books written about the subject and ended my letter by saying proudly that I had already collected about thirty books, which I judged about covered the field. I will not quote the answer received but it did me good and now that I have collected three hundred and forty books and pamphlets on the subject of book-plates, and know the titles of at least one hundred more, still unfortunately lacking in my collection, I realize how that old collector must have smiled when he read my boast of a collection of thirty.

I imagine that there must be something over five hundred books, pamphlets, monographs, brochures, etc., published about book-plates. I have compiled a bibliography, unpublished as yet, which contains over four hundred and fifty titles, and in addition to these there must be several thousand magazine and newspaper articles of which I have only a very superficial list.

To begin at the beginning, and give at least a bird's-eye view of this field of literature, there are the journals of the various book-plate societies, past and present. At the head of them all, if judged by its artistic excellence, stands the

"Revista Iberica d'Ex Libris," the journal of the Spanish Book-plate Society, published in Barcelona from 1903 to 1906, inclusive. For fine paper and printing and for beautiful reproductions in colour, and from original blocks, this quarterly goes far ahead of any of the other Ex Libris journals published. And as far as my knowledge of Spanish goes the editors seem to have chosen good articles and to have divided them judiciously between old and new plates and designers.

The Portuguese Society, notwithstanding their proximity to Spain, seemingly have not been very desirous of attaining artistic excellence for their journal, "Arquivo d'Ex Libris Portugueses," published in Genova, 1901-1908, is perhaps the least artistic of any of the journals I possess. But in justice it must be said that the "Arquivo" has good plain type and useful articles, even if they do lack the beautiful reproductions of the Spanish journal.

In speaking of Art versus good articles and knowledge, there must be mentioned, and given the high praise which is its due, the "Journal of the Ex Libris Society," London, 1892-1908. Like its two contemporaries, the "Ex Libris Buchkunst und Angewandte Graphike," Berlin, founded 1892, and the "Archives de la Societe Francaise des Collectionneurs d'Ex Libris," Paris, founded 1894, both of which are still being published, the old "Ex Libris Journal," as it was always called, relied more upon the excellence of its articles and the mine of useful information into which it turned itself, rather than upon any intrinsic artistic value. In 1900 a few misguided young modernists of Edinburgh started a magazine, "The Book of Book-plates," and took great delight in telling the venerable Ex Libris Journal just how poverty-stricken it was artistically. The Japanese respect the years but we have no such kindly custom; youth will be served, so these adolescents proceeded to write up flattering articles about each other. But after 1905 the flow of artistic book-plates seemed to dry up, for the

magazine was merged into the "Book-lovers Magazine" and after two more years ceased entirely.

In 1891-2 Mr. W. H. K. Wright edited the "Book-plate Collectors Miscellany" as a supplement to the "Western Antiquary," and only discontinued it when he became editor of the Ex Libris Journal, a post which he filled for many years with great ability. London was also represented by another book-plate magazine, the "Book-plate Annual and Armorial Year Book," 1894-1897.

Switzerland has contributed a very handsome journal to the Ex Libris world. It is the "Schweizerische Blatter fur Ex Libris-Sammler," Zurich, 1901-1904, which has very good articles in both French and German, and also many beautiful plates. This magazine was carried into another volume for 1906-1907 as the "Buchkunst, Zeitschrift fur Ex Libris-Sammler und Bucherfreunde." The combination of French and German, on account of Switzerland's population, is seen also in the "Jahrbuch des Ex Libris-Club 'Basilea,'" Basel, 1903, an attractive though not weighty volume.

Since 1903 the Vienna Society has published its year books, the "Osterreichische Exlibris-Gesellschaft Jahrbuch," a useful publication with very admirable articles and handsome illustrations; and last year the new Italian Society published its first year book, the "Archivo dell' Associazione Italiana fra Amatori di Ex Libris," which bids fair to become a worthy rival of the other journals.

Another young journal is the "Svenska Ex Libris Tidsskrift" published by Arthur Sjogren of Stockholm. It is an interesting quarterly and has very fine plates of Swedish Ex Libris, and is now on its third year.

In America we have had the Ex Libris journal of the Washington Society, which bid fair to make itself one of the most interesting and handsome of all the book-plate magazines but unfortunately it had to be discontinued through lack of

# REVISTA IBÉRICA DE EXLIBRIS

SEGUIDA DEL  
INVENTARIO DE  
EXLIBRIS IBÉRICOS



VOL. I

1903

BARCELONA

erest after one year of publication. Mention must also be made of the unassuming, yet delightfully pleasing, "Book-plate Booklet," published by Mr. Sheldon Cheney, 1907-1910, and by Mr. H. A. Fowler, 1911, as well as of "The Ex Libran" whose beauties make us wish that it could have lasted more than one year.

For the collector who wishes a serviceable yet small library of book-plate literature there is a moderate number of good books which cover almost every country on the Ex Libris map. There are first the admirable "Ex Libris" series, published by Bell & Son, London, on American, English, German and French Book-plates; whose authors are respectively Messrs. Allen, Castle, Leiningen-Westerburg and Hamilton.

For France and England there are also the two pioneer works, Poulet-Malassis, "Les Ex Libris Francais," Paris, 1873, and Warren's "Guide to the Study of Book-plates," London, 1880. There are second editions of both of these books, of Poulet-Malassis, in 1875, and of Warren, in 1900. I have also, in my collection, another edition (?) of Warren which has two title-pages, one identical with that of the first edition of 1880, and the other which gives Mr. Warren his title of Lord de Tabley, and instead of having the publisher's name at the bottom, has "SOLD BY ELKIN MATHEWS & JOHN LANE/AT THE SIGN OF THE BODLEY HEAD/IN VIGO STREET, LONDON/1892.

For Italian book-plates there are Bertarelli and Prior's "Gli Ex Libris Italiani," Milan, 1902, and Gelli's "3500 Ex Libris Italiani," Milan, 1908, the former being a magnificent piece of book-making.. There are many fine plates reproduced, a number of them tipped in, and on one page there is a small reproduction of an old Italian book tipped in and upon it is pasted a reproduction of the book-plate just as it was found in the book.

LES  
**EX-LIBRIS**  
FRANÇAIS

DEPUIS LEUR ORIGINE JUSQU'À NOS JOURS

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NOTES SUR LEUR USAGE ET LEUR CURIOSITÉ

FAC-SIMILÉ DU PLI : ANCIEN EX-LIBRIS FRANÇAIS CONNUE



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The best books for Swiss Ex Libris are Gerster's "Die Schweizerischen Bibliothekzeichen," Bern, 1898, and Stickelberger's "Das Ex Libris in der Schweiz und in Deutschland," Basel, 1904. Russia also has two large volumes, Iwask's "Description of Russian Book-plates," Moscow, 1905, and Verestchaguine's "Russian Book-plates," St. Petersburg, 1902. These are valuable to the average collector only on account of the many illustrations which they contain, for they are in Russian, although a limited number of the Verestchaguine have an interesting introduction in French.

Sweden is represented by Carlander's immense and monumental work, "Svenska Bibliotek och Ex Libris," Stockholm, 1904, six volumes; but a more useful book for the ex libris collector is an exhibition catalogue, the "Forteckning a Svenska Bokagaremarken," Stockholm, 1908, compiled by Mr. Sjogren. It contains 190 pages and 100 plates, and with the help of a Swedish-English dictionary, may be used to very good advantage.

In 1896 Mr. J. F. Verster reprinted, from the French journal, his "Liste d'Ex Libris Hollandais," and in 1900 there was published a more imposing volume, "Les Dessinateurs Neerlandais d'Ex Libris," by A. A. Vorstermann Van Oyen. Both of these are useful books and fortunately are written in French instead of Dutch.

For Belgium we have Benjamin Linnig's "Bibliothèques et Ex Libris d'Amateurs Belges," Paris, 1906, of which an extended edition was published in 1910. There are also Dirick's "Ex Libris Belges," Brussels, 1911, and Pierron's "Les Dessinateurs Belges d'Ex Libris," Brussels, 1906, although these two books treat of modern plates and designers entirely, while Linnig treats of the older plates.

Fernandes-Thomas has written a very useful book on Portuguese Ex Libris, "Os Ex Libris Portugueses Ornamentais," Porto, 1905, which contains 175 reproductions of

DOTT. ACHILLE BERTARELLI

DAVID-HENRY PRIOR

# GLI EX LIBRIS ITALIANI

CON UN'INTRODUZIONE

DEL DOTT. GIULIO F. BIANCHI



ULRICO HOEPLI

VIA MONTENAPOLEONE, 15 - MILANO

MILANO

1912

plates to 87 pages. There are also three little brochures, Ferreira de Fonseca's "Noticia dos Ex Libris Portuguezes," Lisbon, 1902, Loureiro's "Ex Libris Portuguezes," Genes, 1903, and Martha's "Desenhadores Portuguezes d'Ex Libris," Figueira, 1908, of respectively 14, 12 and 30 pages.

Spain seems to be content with one brochure, "Los Ex Libris y su actual florecimiento en Espana," which is by R. Miguel y Planas, and was published in 1905, in Barcelona. Luckily, however, for the collector, Don Miguel, like Fernandes-Thomas, uses many and good reproductions, there being 74 plates to 32 pages.

Canada is represented by thirteen pages, two of introduction and eleven of list, in Gagnon's "Essai de Bibliographie Canadienne," an exhaustive volume published in Quebec in 1895. I understand that the late Dr. Cameron collected a large amount of material on Canadian Book-plates which is now in the hands of a well-known collector of the "old guard," but with little hope of ever seeing the light of publication.

There is a very useful book, to one who can read the language, on Polish book-plates. It is by Wiktor Wittgy and is entitled "Ex Libris Y Bibliotek Polskick," and was published in Wieku in 1903.

Hungary and Mexico are the most modest lands in regard to book-plate literature. The former is represented by a catalogue compiled by Czako Elemer for an ex libris exhibit held in Budapest, in May, 1903. The title-page reads, "Az Orsz. Magyar Iparművészeti Museum, Ex Libris Kiállitásának." And Mexico is content with an article, "Los Ex-Libris Simbolicos de Los Bibliofilos Mexicanos," by Dr. N. Leon, in the "Boletin del Instituto Bibliografico Mexicano," for 1903.

Together with the foregoing books, as being of value to the collector, must be mentioned the many lists of book-plates which have been published and which are among the most useful in the collector's library. Leading them all is

В. А. Верещагинъ.

Русскій Книжный Знакъ.

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L'Ex-libris Russe.

V. Verestchaquine.

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the wonderful British Museum catalogue of the Franks Bequest, containing the names and partial descriptions of 34,468 book-plates. This set of three volumes is a monument not only to Lord Franks, but also to Mr. Gambier-Howe, the compiler. It is a work which no collector can afford to be without, especially if he is at all interested in heraldic plates, although I should not go as far as to agree with one collector who is quoted as saying that one page of the Franks catalogue was more interesting to him than any novel ever written.

Many of the books which I have mentioned are of this class, which aims to make a more or less comprehensive list of the plates of a country and give their descriptions, inscriptions, engravers' names, etc. Such are the books by Bertarelli, Gelli, Gerster, Iwask, Sjogren, Verster, Loureiro, Gagnon, Wittgy and Elemer.

There are also Hamilton's useful "Dated Book-plates," London, 1895, and Warnecke's "Die Deutschen Bucherzeichen," Berlin, 1890, both excellent in their way and especially interesting to the collector of the older plates. France has been especially prolific in books of this kind, some of the best being Mahuet's "Essai repertoire des Ex Libris des bibliophiles Lorrain," Nancy, 1906; Quantin's "Ex Libris Bourguignons," Paris, 1907; Jardert's "Les Bibliophiles Remois et leurs Ex Libris," Reims, 1894; and Goyetche's "Quelques Ex Libris Bordelais," Bordeaux, 1911. It will be noted that these books are mostly of particular localities. The French have published many such local books on the ex libris of the different French provinces, and should be a worthy example to the other countries in this regard. The nearest we have to this type is Miss White's "Indiana Book-plates," Richmond, Indiana, 1910, and R. C. Lichtenstein's pamphlet lists, "Early New England and New York Heraldic Book-plates," and "Early Southern Heraldic

# Bilder=Hefte

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## Geschichte des Bücherhandels

von

mit demselben verwandten Künste und Gewerbe.

Herausgegeben

von

Heinrich Lemperb,

Verleger in Bonn.

65 Tafeln mit 280 bildlichen Darstellungen in Kupferstich, Lithographie, Farbdruck  
und Holzschnitt, mit Text.



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Cöln 1853—65.

Verlag von J. M. Heberle (H. Lemperb).

Druck von J. M. Heberle (H. Lemperb).

Book-plates," Boston, 1886 and 1887.

Perhaps one of the largest and most interesting fields in book-plate literature is that in which are those books dealing with special artists. Here in America we have the two beautiful books by Messrs. La Rose and Andreini on the work of J. W. Spenceley, and the fine memorial to E. D. French.

Mr. W. E. Fisher has published five exquisite portfolios of his book-plate designs, many of them hand-colored and all beautifully gotten up. The combination of the dainty portfolios and the dainty designs which they contain made these five portfolios among the best ever published either in this country or abroad.

Between 1903 and 1907 there were published in Boston a series of twelve beautifully printed and attractive brochures dealing with the work of modern American book-plate designers such as Bird, Gregson, Ipsen and others. These booklets were published through the instrumentality of that eccentric genius, W. P. Truesdell, and are an honor to his taste as a printer and to the "Troutsdale Press."

This series has been matched in England by a series of six brochures published by Schulze and dealing with the work of such modern designers as Nelson, Vinycomb, and others. Like Mr. Truesdell, the English publishers have striven successfully for artistic excellence.

There is also a more imposing and beautiful book, "LV Book-plates Engraved on Copper by William Phillips Barrett," London, 1900, and Thomas Moring's two volumes of ex libris designs on copper and wood, published in London in the same year.

Last year there was published in England the memorial volume to the late Charles William Sherborn. I cannot well express too much admiration for the excellent list of book-plates and to the pleasing and interesting life and

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criticism written by Mr. Charles D. Sherborn, but I do think that the paper and printing might have been very much better and that proofs from the coppers of Mr. Sherborn's own book-plates would have added very much to the value of the book and made it a much more fitting memorial to so great a man. I ventured to say as much to Mr. Viner, the compiler of the list of Mr. Sherborn's plates, in a letter written to him shortly after the book was issued. Mr. Viner's reply is too long to quote entire, but I will give one extract from it, characteristic of the whole, which takes up the matter of reproductions from the coppers of Mr. Sherborn's book-plates.

Mr. Viner says: "In the first place the family has had nothing whatever to do with the publication; that emanates from Mr. C. Davies Sherborn alone and he, not desiring to turn the publication into a possible source of profit, very wisely (in my opinion) refrained from bribing the general public into purchasing for the sake of the prints from the original coppers which it might contain, notwithstanding being strongly urged to do so." Be that as it may, I have not yet talked with or corresponded with any American book-plate collector who has not compared the Sherborn memorial volume with those issued here for French and Spenceley, to the discredit of the English publication.

But to return to *ex libris* literature in general. In this class of books, relating to one designer, as in most cases, we must award the premier honors to Germany. Within the last ten years there have been published in Germany and Austria a large number of exquisite portfolios on different book-plate designers. The most beautiful of these are probably the five portfolios devoted to the plates designed by the Marquis Franz von Bayros. The plates are mounted with a "framed" or "cut-out" mount and thereby present a very handsome appearance, being equaled only by the port-

folios issued by Mr. Fisher, heretofore referred to. One each of these portfolios was issued by Ludwig and Wolf of Vienna, and the other three by Senger of Munich.

There have also been four monographs, one a portfolio, published about Willi Geiger's astonishing *ex libris*; and a number of beautiful large paper monographs on such artists as Ubbelohde, Wilm (four "Bands"), Preetorius, and Soder. There is also a dainty little booklet published in Prague on the work of the Bohemian artist Vojtech Preissig, and there are several less pretentious booklets devoted to the work of Georg Otto, Prof. Hildebrand, Hermann Hirzel, Bernhard Wenig, and others.

The best thing about the Germans, however, is that they have the courage of their convictions and keep on publishing these books and portfolios. I am but recently in receipt of a handsome portfolio of the book-plate work of Moritz von Gruenewaldt, and have just subscribed for another, now in preparation, of the plates of Oscar and Cacilie Graf.

There is another category of book-plate books which, while of little interest and less real use to the average collector, is still of absorbing interest to the searcher after items for a collection of *ex libris* literature. This class comprises "out-of-the-way" books and those published in very small editions.

Among the former may be mentioned the tiny pamphlet by Fernandes-Thomas, entitled "O falso *Ex Libris* de D. Catharina de Braganca," Figueira, 1904; the brochure "*Ex Libris* du Commandant Edgar Servant," Laval, 1909; and a very interesting booklet entitled "The Stewarts' Book-plates," privately printed for Mr. C. E. Stewart. Lord Franks, in addition to the British Museum catalogue, is remembered by his "Notes on Book-plates," a pamphlet printed privately in 1887 on dated English plates, which is

now very rare.

A beautiful book was published in Stockholm in 1907 by Isak Collijn, entitled "Det Rosenbergska Biblioteket och dess Ex Libris." It is a very handsome and beautifully gotten-up volume and has in it remarkably fine reproductions of book-plates and super-libros.

There is also an interesting book, the "Catalogue of the Engravings issued by the Society of Iconophiles," New York, 1908, which contains an autobiography of E. D. French, in which he devotes most of his space to his book-plate work. It is probably due to the fact that the Iconophiles do not readily part with their prints and publications, and also that there were but 125 copies issued, that makes this interesting item about Mr. French so unknown.

Of limited editions, especially in the book-plate world, there are many. Several editions of standard works such as those in the "Ex Libris Series," the Spenceley and French memorials, and some of Truesdell's set have had a limited number of copies printed on Japanese vellum. Others, such as Hardy's "Book-plates," and Fincham's "Artists and Engravers of British and American Book-plates," have been content with larger paper, or a special kind of hand-made paper, for their "special editions." Most of these special editions are limited to from ten to fifty copies in addition to the regular issue.

I am the happy possessor of three different copies of "Gothic Book-plates," Kansas City, 1912. One of them is of the regular edition of 250 on large white hand-made paper, another is one of a special edition of twelve copies on Japanese vellum, and the third is one of three copies printed on Roman vellum.

There are some books of which the entire edition is very small. Moeder's "Essai sur les Ex Libris Alsaciens" and "Ex Libris Franc-Comtois," Dijon, 1905, are limited

respectively to forty and fifty copies. Burke's "Examples of Irish Book-plates," London, 1894, is limited to 100 copies, and the supplementary volume to thirty copies. Bouland and Benoit's "Liste Sommaire pour servir a l'etude des Ex Libris Lorrains," Paris, 1912, is limited to twenty copies, and the "List of Book-plates by Sidney L. Smith," published last year, to fifteen copies.

Another very interesting division of this subject is that of "classified" book-plates and the publications about them. Here we find the two booklets on the Ex Libris of doctors by Henry Andre and Dr. R. G. Curtin. There is also Mr. A. W. Pope's interesting pamphlets on Masonic Ex Libris, and the recently issued volume "Book-plates of Princeton and Princetonians," by Mr. C. N. Carver. There are some larger works also, such as Labouchere's "Ladies Book-plates," and J. F. Verster's "XL Muzikale Boekmerken," Amsterdam, 1897, the latter not containing "musical" book-plates but reproductions of book-plates upon which appear all sorts of musical and other sound-making instruments.

One of the most important and rarest of book-plate books is Heinrich Lempertz's "Bilder-Hefte zur Geschichte des Bucherhandels," Cologne, 1853-65. It is a huge folio, 19 by 12 inches in size, and was published in parts. It contains portraits of publishers, printers, and booksellers of several countries, one page being given to Benjamin Franklin, as well as to fac-similes of fine bindings, type, printers' marks and other items of interest to the bibliophile. But our interest centers in five pages which bear twenty reproductions of old Ex Libris such as the Brandenburg, Pirckheimer, Pomer and Razeberg. With the illustrations are some slight notes in regard to the plates. I think that this is the first book ever printed in Germany containing reproductions of book-plates.

In closing I should like to call attention to one phase of

collecting book-plate literature which is a joy in itself. This is the extra-illustration of one's book-plate library. Of course, it is not given to all collectors to be the happy possessors of enough plates to extra-illustrate Allen, Warren or Poulet-Malassis, but in a more modest way it may be done with a great deal of pleasure and profit. I have adorned my books on Sherborn, French and Spenceley by the addition of a number of plates from my small collections of these artists' work, and have taken great delight in extra-illustrating a little book on heraldry, by Canon Jenkins, by the insertion of a number of armorial plates.

In such a way as this the path of the book-plate collector may be made even more pleasant than it already is and there may be an added and welcome enjoyment to the hours which he spends with his hobby.

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